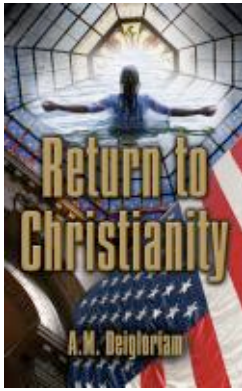


Return to Christianity

A.M. Deigloriam



The book is a reminder that many of the Christian values this country has been identified with are no longer practiced by an increasing number of Americans. This book fills that vacuum and allows readers to stop and think about the direction in which their lives are headed. We should not be surprised if the government passes laws that are not based on Christian values since government represents society.

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Review and Analysis by A.M. Deigloriam
April 12, 2015

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ISBN: 978-1-63490-500-8

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Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Bradenton, Florida, U.S.A.

Printed on acid-free paper.

BookLocker.com, Inc.
2015

First Edition

The Original Twelve Apostles

The original twelve apostles as named in the gospels were Simon (Peter, meaning “rock”), Andrew and James (the sons of Zebedee), John, Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, James (son of Alphaeus), Jude (also known as Thaddaeus), Simon the Zealot, and Judas Iscariot, the disciple who betrayed Jesus. Three of the apostles—Peter, James, and John—accompanied Jesus more closely during his life, such as when Jesus raised Jairus daughter from the dead and during the Transfiguration.

After being imprisoned for years in Jerusalem, Peter moved to Rome, where he met Mark. According to a second-century bishop named Papias, Mark, a later disciple and interpreter for the apostle Peter, wrote a short gospel at the request of the brethren in Rome, repeating what Peter had told him regarding the teachings and life of Jesus, which he himself had heard and witnessed during Jesus’ public ministry. Peter, one of the original twelve, is therefore considered to be a true and reliable source for the Gospel of Mark, making Mark an authentic account of Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection. The Gospel of Mark, written primarily for a Greek audience, is the shortest of the three synoptic gospels. It begins with Jesus’ baptism by John the Baptist and ends with the discovery of Jesus’ empty tomb and Jesus’ instructions to His disciples to preach the gospel to the whole world.

Andrew, after traveling through the Caucasus mountains in Eurasian Georgia, ended up in Patros, Greece, where he was crucified and remained tied to the cross for three days. James, son of Zebedee, was a fisherman with his brother John, and both were partners with Peter and Andrew. James was beheaded about 44 AD in Jerusalem. John became the pastor of the church of Ephesus. He was later exiled to the island of Patmos, where he wrote the book of Revelation, which is based on visions given to him by the Holy Spirit regarding the end times. He was eventually released and returned to Ephesus, where he wrote the Gospel of John, as well as three letters to the early Christian community that are contained in the New Testament. John died in 68 AD from old age.

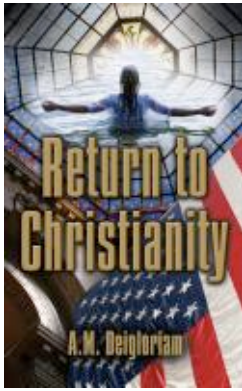
Phillip travelled to Asia Minor with Bartholomew after the ascension of Christ into heaven. Phillip was crucified after healing the wife of the proconsul of the city of Hierapolis and converting her to Christianity. Phillip was about eighty-seven years old at the time of his martyrdom, which consisted of being crucified upside-down on a cross. Bartholomew, after escaping martyrdom in Asia Minor with Philip, traveled to India and Armenia.

It is believed he joined the apostle Jude from about 60 AD to 66 AD and was martyred around 68 AD. Thomas was a fisherman by trade and traveled to Babylon, India, and China, although he was martyred in India. Matthew was the son of Alphaeus and the brother

of James. Matthew was a tax collector when he first encountered Christ and made several missionary trips to Persia and Ethiopia after the death of Jesus. Tradition states that he was martyred in Egypt. James was the son of Alphaeus and the brother of Matthew. A member of the Jewish tribe of Levi, he was a native of Capernaum, which was situated on the northwest shores of the Sea of Galilee. He was known as the first bishop of the Syrian church. He was stoned in Jerusalem for preaching the gospel of Christ.

Jude, or Thaddaeus, was from the Jewish tribe of Judah. He evangelized with Bartholomew and Thomas in Syria and Persia. He was martyred near the Caspian Sea. Simon the Zealot travelled to Egypt and then through North Africa, Spain, and Britain. It is believed he was crucified by the Romans in Britain around 61 AD.

Ten of the original twelve apostles, therefore, were martyred either by crucifixion, stoning, or beheading. John was the only one that was exiled to a remote island and died of natural causes.



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